

# The Catch

## COCORAHS - HARSH WEATHER

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, May 12, 2010

CoCoRaHS team

Just a few quick items.

**First**, although it's May 12th, winter won't quit and tonight it is snowing like crazy here in northern Colorado. I've been out to sweep the fruit trees and I better do it one more time before bed. We've already had nearly 3" of wet snow and it's coming down hard. I hope not to wake to the sound of cracking tree branches, but it's very possible if this keeps up.

**Second**, condolences to those of you in Oklahoma who lost property or worse yesterday. The storms were well predicted, but still with such an outbreak of tornadoes and severe storms, it was hard to escape. Several CoCoRaHS volunteers had tornado damage or very close calls. Thanks for mentioning your situations in your "Comments" this AM. One volunteer reported 4"-diameter hail (think about that for a minute -- that's huge!) Since we have so many volunteers now in so many places, anytime bad weather hits a CoCoRaHS volunteer is usually nearby.

**Third**, words of appreciation again for our volunteers in Tennessee and surrounding states that are finally drying out from the huge rains and floods last week. Many of you had to deal with floodwaters and still managed to submit your rainfall reports. Thanks.

**Fourth**, not everyone is getting stormed on. Parts of the South have been heating up and drying out very quickly. Several of you have provided some excellent "Drought Impacts Reports" describing your emerging dry conditions. You can view these drought impacts reports by going to <http://www.cocorahs.org/ViewData/ListDroughtImpactReports.aspx>. Click "Select State" and select a range of dates and you can view comments from the entire country.

Here was a useful comment from a volunteer in Texas:

5/9/2010 TX-BST-35 TX Bastrop *"A drought is starting. We have not had significant rain for about a month. The spring grasses started to die back about 2 weeks ago, the summer grass is not coming up. It should be up at this time. The patches that I shredded last week are brown. Last week I still had alot of rye grass and some oats left. My horses finished the stand of oats and have eaten down most of the rye grass that was growing in the sun. The grass in the shade is still doing OK."* This is a good example of descriptive observations that really help.

We all realize that drought is much less "Exciting" than other meteorological phenomenon, but it is terrible important, so your observations of emerging and worsening drought will always be appreciated.

**Finally**, here is an update on our May 10-14 "Report Your Precipitation" week. We're making headway, but so far we're falling short of our (my) goal. About 8,000 volunteers have reported their daily precipitation yesterday and today. The 6,000 reports of zero precipitation Monday was impressive albeit boring. We need another 1,000 people to check their gauge and go to the CoCoRaHS website to report your data! Help out if you can. If you haven't reported in the past 12-15 months, there is a good chance that we deactivated your station and your login won't work. If that's the problem, just shoot me an e-mail and we can reactive your station.

For those of you enjoying 80+ degree weather this week -- I feel badly for you and all the fun your missing with a May snowstorm.

Best to all,

*Nolan*  
(Colorado)